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GENERAL NEWS.

Discussion is now running high as to the military chances foreshadowed. One hypothesis divides the whole army of the U. S. into two grand divisions—Eastern and Western—Gen. McClellan being assigned to the former and Gen. Halleck to the latter. In that event the headquarters of Gen. McClellan would be in Washington, and Gen. Hooker takes his place in the field.

The Federal army is being rapidly clothed in their winter habiliments. The artillery and cavalry regiments, to a certain extent, have been replenished with new horses, and the old stock turned out. Large droves of the lean and hungry kind have been limping their way towards Frederick and Washington, for the purpose of being assorted. The best are retained and turned out to grass, while those of the mummy order are sold to the highest bidder.

A letter from Sharpsburg, Md., says:—"A committee on the assessment of damages to private property has been appointed to award claims on property damaged by Porter's corps."

At Buffalo, Oct. 23, a sale of two thousand dollars in gold was made on 'change deliverable in six months, at forty-five per cent. premium.

In Washington on Thursday night, A. Shaumburg, a sutler, went to Mr. J. Mansfield's, on Seventh street, near the avenue (navy-yard,) and demanded admission. But, being refused, he pushed the door open, and, drawing a pistol, ran the family out of doors.—Officer Clarke, arrested him, and he was taken before Justice Cull, who fined him \$20 94.

Late despatches to Gen. Pope, at St. Paul, Minn., state that of the Indians tried before the Military Commission, twenty-one have been found guilty. Others are yet to be tried. The number of Indians who have surrendered themselves to Gen. Sibley, and been sent down to the Agency, was 1,507.

The name of First Lieutenant Frederick Dodge, Sixth Cavalry, is, by direction of the President, dropped from the rolls of the army.

Several gentlemen recently reached Gallipolis, Ohio, having left Charleston in the Kanawha Valley. They report that the Confederates, under Gen. Loring, have all left the Valley, and none are now on the west side of Gauley. It was reported that Gen. Loring had received orders from Gen. Lee to report, with his entire command, to him, at Winchester, Virginia. It was also reported and believed that Gen. Lee was concentrating every available man at Winchester for the purpose of attacking Gen. McClellan; when, if successful, he is to invade Ohio and Pennsylvania. The Confederate raid into the Kanawha Valley has been fully as successful as anticipated. It is estimated that they have carried off fully two hundred thousand bushels of salt.

A. F. Kimmell, proprietor of the house bearing his name, in Washington, in the rear of the National, has been arrested on the charge of aiding in the transportation of contraband goods South, and sent to the Old Capitol.

The Washington Star says, that no requisitions for shoes or clothing for the Army of the Potomac upon the department of the depot quartermaster—Col. Rucker—has failed to be complied with promptly. The quartermaster of the Army of the Potomac has at no time lacked an ample supply of those articles; and the failure of Gen. McClellan's troops to receive them as required, is likely to turn out to be the result of want of business like management on the part of those charged with the duty of their prompt distribution after their arrival there.

Arrangements have been made in Philadelphia for laying the rail-tracks so that the cars of the Trenton road will be run directly through to Washington, and the Baltimore cars pass through to New York, thereby enabling these companies to pass troops directly through the city.

General Sherman has ordered thirty Confederate families to leave Memphis, in punishment for recent guerilla attacks on the Mississippi.

Several New Orleans papers express themselves freely in condemning the emancipation proclamation of the President.

General Butler has ordered in New Orleans, that Uriah G. Patterson be confined for six months at Fort Pickens, at hard labor, with a twenty-four pound ball attached to his leg by a chain, for an insulting and seditious report to the authorities of the United States.

Business in New Orleans continues dull.—The first-class hotels, with a single exception, are closed, and the markets offer nothing for sustenance. Of the growing cane the National Advocate says:—"Not a word do we learn of any grinding for the new crop. The sugar crop on the coast is doomed for this season." The tobacco crop is also short.

The statement that Gen. Fremont has been assigned to duty is without foundation. That he may be used to organize with his Staff a German liberating army, to cooperate with the loyal citizens, chiefly German, of Texas, is altogether probable; but of the troops now in the field, and engaged under other commanders, on other lines of movement, none can be spared. Gen. Fremont's command, it is said, will be an irregular levy, organized by himself, on a basis similar to that of the Partisan Rangers.

General Grant telegraphs that a band of guerrillas have been defeated and dispersed near Brownsville, Miss. The Federal forces captured forty prisoners, sixty horses and mules, and a wagon load of arms.

Mr. Corcoran, the great Washington banker, before leaving for Europe, purchased one million six hundred thousand dollars in gold.

The steamer Quaker City appears to have been rescued from the imminent danger in which she was represented to be by late intelligence from the Southern coast. Capt. Moss, of the schooner Mary Stedham, from Fernandina, arrived at New York, reports that his vessel was boarded on the 12th instant, in latitude 24° 30', longitude 80°, by the U. S. steamer Quaker City, on a cruise, all well. It is evident, therefore, that the steamer was not wrecked.

Several recruits intended for the Confederate army are said to have been arrested on Thursday, at Hyattstown, Md., who were about to cross the river and join the army.

The New York Journal of Commerce states on authority that Hon. Millard Fillmore is "unconditionally in favor of Mr. Seymour."

The amount of coal consumed by the Federal government in its military and naval operations has been very great. All the coal used is, with slight exceptions, produced from the mining sections of Pennsylvania. It is estimated that the annual quantity consumed is in the neighborhood of three hundred thousand tons. All the anthracite shipped to Beaufort, Port Royal, and the various other naval depots on the Southern coast, comes originally from Philadelphia.

The portion of the cargo of the prize steamer Lodona, consisting of liquors and drugs, is to be sold in Philadelphia on the 30th inst.

An important seizure has just been made at the Washington wharves. Thirty tons of lead were about to be shipped to Baltimore, of which no inconsiderable portion was composed of melted bullets, which had been sold at the grog shops for what soldiers can buy there.

Several adjoining counties in Maryland are infested with deserters from the Federal army, making their way North. Unless arrested, many of these, who have been recipients already of large bounties, will make good their escape, and in many instances re-enlist to practice again the same game of swindling.

G. W. Wilson, editor of the Marlboro' Gazette, who was arrested on the charge of publishing an article interfering with the draft in Prince George's county, Md., has been released.

Mr. Vincent R. Jackson, who was arrested in Washington on his return from Richmond, and was released on giving bonds to appear when required, has been re-arrested and sent to the Old Capitol.

Yesterday a steamer arrived at Washington, bringing up 360 contrabands from Suffolk, who have made their way into the Federal lines at different times. There are about 200 men, the rest being women and children, many of the latter small. They were at once sent to the contraband camp.

The difficulties among the coal miners in Schuylkill county, in regard to the draft, have been adjusted. All is now quiet, the men resuming their work, which has generally been suspended for the last two days.